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PAGE 01 SAIGON 12059 300555Z

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY 072596 DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Saigon 12059
7-30-71

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS: MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT KY

REF: SAIGON 11670

1. IN A CALL I MADE ON KY JULY 29 (KHOI ALSO PRESENT) TO DISCUSS THE ELECTION SITUATION, I FOUND HIM IN GOOD SPIRITS AND CONFIDENT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE ENDORSEMENT HURDLE. HE WENT OVER THE SAME STORY HE HAD GIVEN AMBASSADOR BERGER (REFTEL) EMPHASIZING THE BIND THE DILATORY TACTICS OF THE PROVINCE CHIEFS HAD PUT HIM IN.

2. I ASKED HIM HOW HE STOOD NOW AND HE CLAIMED HE HAD 9020 SIGNATURES, MANY OF THEM NOT YET CERTIFIED. HE GAVE ME A LIST WHICH CONTAINED 104 NAMES AND SAID HE HAD 16 ADDITIONAL ONES WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST. HE HAD DISPATCHED FOUR TEAMS JULY 29, ONE TO EACH MILITARY REGION, WITH THE TASK OF ROUNDING UP CERTIFICATIONS OF SIGNATURES. WITH RESPECT TO HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATIONS IN I CORPS, HE REPORTED THAT GENERAL LAM HAD BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE AND THAT HE NO LONGER WAS HAVING A PROBLEM WITH THE MAYOR OF DANANG.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSION JULY 23 WITH AMBASSADOR BERGER WE HAD MADE OUR POSITION KNOWN TO BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND AND THE PRIME MINISTER. I DID NOT INDICATE HOW THIS HAD BEEN DONE. HE GREATLY APPRECIATED THIS NEWS.

4. IN TALKING ABOUT THE ELECTION IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, KY REPORTED HIS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE TIME HAD COME

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12059 300555Z

FOR SVN TO FACE UP TO THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. THE WAR HAD GONE ON LONG ENOUGH AND THE COUNTRY MUST MORE VIGOROUSLY SEEK NON-VIOLENT WAYS OF CONFRONTING ITS DIFFICULTIES. I SAID I STRONGLY URGED THAT THE CAMPAIGN FOCUS ON ISSUES, NOT PERSONALITIES. PERSONAL ATTACKS HAVE A WAY OF PERPETUATING DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD DEPRIVE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OF THAT DEGREE OF UNITY NEEDED TO CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE WITH THE COMMUNISTS WHETHER IT BE THROUGH POLITICAL OR MILITARY MEANS. HE SAID HE AGREED WITH THIS POINT OF VIEW.

5. COMMENT: A SUPREME COURT SOURCE WE CONSIDER RELIABLE HAS INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT THIEU'S APPLICATION IS SUPPORTED BY THE CERTIFIED ENDORSEMENTS OF 452 PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS (NOTE: TOTAL NUMBER IS 546), 15 SENATORS AND 89 LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES. WE ARE SEEKING INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS INFORMATION. IF TRUE, IT WOULD APPEAR KY, DESPITE HIS OPTIMISM, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO QUALIFY.
BUNKER

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